

This month's Northside News is dedicated to the arts. Art isn't just a beautiful painting or imagery, words and sound, art is labor. It is emotive and stoic, revolutionary, reflective, and repressive! Art heals the mind and the body, it feeds as it's feasted upon for millennia without question, art gives and gives. Art only asks for one thing and that's change! What is the change art seeks from us? Is it our perspective, our hearts, or the way we listen, see and love each other in this community and communities that differ from yours? Is that too much to ask? I think NOT!

-B.L. Harrison

In honor of National Poetry Month, we have two poems we are featuring on the front page.

Notes From Our Chef

By Rajeev Rajendran

Move fast, stay sharp. If it's not sharp, it's not a knife.
Be attentive to guests. Be interested, be loving, be generous in all things, to each other and to them. The answer is yes.
The work we are doing is sacred. This food has come to us through God, and we will serve it as his hands and feet. Wash your hands frequently and wear closed-toed nonslip shoes. Be patient. A great meal is a spiritual experience.
You are empowered now as an extension of me to have a sense of ownership. Own this, the words that you say and your every action. These ships that are blown by strong winds are driven by small rudders, so watch your touch that you don't put a single hand onto a plate in anger. And above all, watch your tongues. Your tongue becomes your eyes when we lose our sight, but it moves as a deadly weapon more poisonous than the serpent's tooth. Control it.
It does not control you. Beloved, not many of you should become chefs because you know that we who teach shall be judged more harshly. But I am with you in this. Do as I would do. You are empowered to give what you need to give and say what you need to say to make their experience positive. They are not customers, they are our guests. They are not your guests, they are your family. Your self and the hand that feeds you, nearer than sight when your own family leaves you. They will come back and be here believing when you are tired, because you'll forget as you feed from this every day, how good this is, but they won't, because it is. It tastes good to them, it tastes good to them, you can tell by the way they give themselves to it, it is that good, down to the base chemistry.
We are alchemists working through generations of history. Learn the recipes.

The Art of Gratitude

THANK YOU, VIMALA!!

Our last hot meal delivery from Vimala's Restaurant was Thursday, April 15th. We wanted to hear from our neighbors what they felt about having received these for over a year. We couldn't post them all, because it would take up all of the newsletter and then some, so here are just some of your "words of thanks!"

"Being handicapped, this really helped out so much. We really appreciated the meals!"
"All I can tell her is that it's awesome! We have really appreciated the meals."
"We really appreciate them. The meals have been a great help. And thank you for all that you have done."
"Thank you from both of us; they were very good!"
"The meals have been really good and we appreciate receiving them!"
Thank you!" "Thank you, Vimala, for all the delicious hot meals! They have really been a blessing! GOD bless you, your family, and your business!"
"The hot meals have been a real treat and we appreciate all that the restaurant and the Jackson Center have done for us!"
"We've really enjoyed the hot meals - they have been very good!"
"I really enjoy my meals!!!"
"Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!!!"
"Thank you! I really appreciated it!"

To all of our Neighbors, the Jackson Center was blessed to provide hot meals during the pandemic, and we hope you enjoyed the meals! Please consider letting Vimala know what they meant to you by sending her a card or note. Vimala Rajendran, Vimala's Curryblossom Cafe, 431 W Franklin Street, #415, Chapel Hill, NC 27516; curryblossom.com; 919-929-3833.
We are blessed that you are our Neighbors!
MCJC Staff & Volunteers

Eminent Domain

By C.J. Suitt

Chapel Hill's Poet Laureate

I.
When the gentrifiers come
There will be no trumpet sound
No cavalry
Only the sound of bikes and electric cars
Yes electric cars
A thousand yoga mats will unfold
Without the presence of an indigenous yogi
When the gentrifiers come
There will not be affordable housing
There will be a surge in dog walkers
Dogs
Pet stores
Car Cafes
Affordable grocery stores will disappear
Brown people will disappear
Culture will disappear
Then reappear as a microbrewery
Lofted apartments
Handmade gift shops
Vape Shops
Co working Space
All CBD stand alone stores will be owned by white people
They will decriminalize marijuana
And my cousins will still be struggling to make bail

The white girls will take twerk classes
Black men will watch like it's new

When the gentrifiers come they will think
It's a party for everyone
Not an altar
Or safe space

They will take selfies
With and without the black people

They will think black is an aesthetic
Punk
A choice

Think they invented
Karaoke
And kombucha
And farmers markets
Farm to table

White people will say nigga in the rap songs
Just not around their black friends
Except if it's karaoke night

They will throw parties
And axes
And shade
And shame
And shame
The type that doesn't do much for
Eviction notices
Imminent domain

Lofted apartments will billow
With the smoke of Paulo santo and Sage
And the air will not feel any clearer

II.
When gentrifiers burn sage
a brown baby cries across sea
And ocean of tears
Another millionaire denies reparations
A black girl loses an earring
A pearl drops down a storm drain
When gentrifiers burn sage
A museum in Brazil catches fire
And we can't figure the why
There is constant forgetting
A feeling that it can all be smudged away
You that hurt
That was caused by the drunk Uncle
When gentrifiers burn sage
there is a smirk at a lynching
At deadpan stare at a scene of police violence
A car passes a person on the side of the
Road
A car is stopped because of a tail light

A penny is dropped into a bums cup
A houseless person is called a bum
In passing
By a student with a housing scholarship
There is a white riot
Disgusted

Urgent: Inequities in Property Tax Revaluations!

Did you see a very large increase in your tax bill this year? You're not the only one! Neighbors received property tax valuations at the end of March, and many Black elders in our neighborhood saw huge increases. On average, long-term neighbors will pay 53% more in property taxes if Orange County does not act to fix these disparities. Some neighbors could see their property taxes more than double.

- In comparison to the 53% increase in Northside, affluent communities' property tax valuations largely remained the same: three majority-white wealthy neighborhoods near Northside saw changes ranging between -1% and 13%.
- Single family homes in several nearby neighborhoods in Chapel Hill showed an average 8% increase. In comparison, single family homes in Northside rose over 5x that amount!

Learn more & challenge these unjust inequities at https://jacksoncenter.info/property_tax_inequities/ or call the Jackson Center at 919-960-1670

RAMADAN AND WELLNESS

Ramadan is one of the holiest months of the Islamic year. During the 30 days Muslims fast, read the Quran and pray. This is a time of patience and prosperity to come together in their fast, iftar (meal eaten at sunset), and Taraweeh (special Ramadan prayer). After Ramadan ends there is Eid - a feast with loved ones and prayer. Fasting during Ramadan is one of the five pillars that are essential to being Muslim. These pillars are sawm (fasting), shahada (belief in one God) salat (prayer), zikat (charity), and hajj (pilgrimage).



Aisha Booze-hall

During Ramadan Muslims fast from eating, drinking, and sexual activity while the sun is up. They also attempt to remove themselves from situations which are unsavory and this could include being angry or accomplishing tasks that don't align with the guidelines of Islam. There are cultural beliefs about what else should be removed from one's life when fasting. Some people don't listen to music or watch TV while they're fasting. Muslims come together with friends and family for suhoor (meal before starting fast). This is the meal that is eaten before you begin fasting. Muslims pray 5 times per day. The first prayer is usually prayed together at the start of fasting. This prayer is called Fajr and this happens at dawn. After suhoor, Muslims make Fajr together and then begin their fast.

Normally Ramadan is about being with people in the energy you get to share with them. During the pandemic this has become a more solo task with Muslims. Praying, fasting, and being sacrificial all in the name of improvement are the large tasks. Inshallah, this Ramadan will be our last in the pandemic.

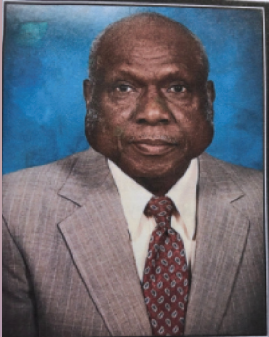
My favorite part of Ramadan is eating meals with my friends and family every evening. There is something about sharing time with people who you care about that just uplifts the spirit. I am someone who loves spending time with others but I do not care about dieting or changing my lifestyle too much. But when this is work that I complete for Allah (God) SWT, it is worth it. Fasting feels good. Like how people feel really peaceful when they're doing something they love.

I have always loved celebrating Ramadan and while this sacrifice is an essential one, one of the most important things to me is that my life doesn't change 360 percent. While growing up I ran cross country and completed practice while fasting. One of the main things I was taught was to not change my lifestyle due to Ramadan- like not to start dieting or to change the way I was behaving for this reason. I would complete everything I would do before Ramadan but without eating or drinking. Now, I am a little older and I don't care about proving that I can do everything that I can do while fasting or not. I fast and complete my tasks but I don't go any extra for anyone other than myself. In the future, I will maybe work out more while I am fasting but this isn't something certain. Some of the things that I remove from my life when fasting are watching TV, listening to music. This time has been a moment for me to focus on reflection and personal growth. As a people, we have been through much worse. I am happy to be a Black, Muslim woman.

- Aisha Booze-hall

In Memoriam

Mr. Robert Farrar
(July 5, 1935 - April 2, 2021)



Mrs. Christine Jones
(November 27, 1925 - April 19, 2021)



“You can’t sit around and wait for somebody to say who you are. You need to write it and paint it and do it.”
— Faith Ringgold

May Birthdays

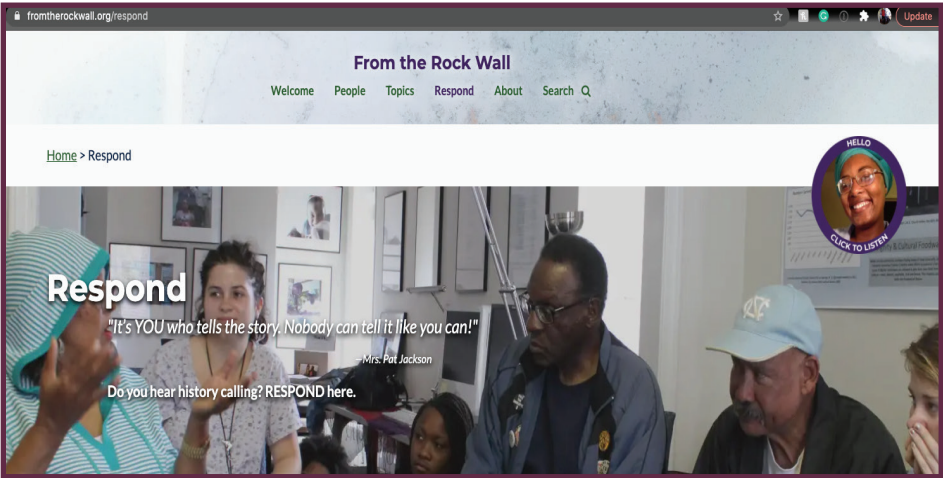
- 5/3 Janie Alston
- 5/3 Cleo Caldwell
- 5/6 Diana Koo
- 5/7 Valerie Foushee
- 5/9 Crystal Collins
- 5/17 Garland Foushee (103!)
- 5/18 Kay Gattis
- 5/19 Richelle Watson
- 5/24 Josh Davis
- 5/29 Jennette Farrington
- 5/30 Donnie Hollywood Riggsbee
- 5/30 Gladys Pendergraph-Brandon

History is growing in Northside!

Spring is in the air, and the warmed weather is drawing many of us to spend a little more time outside -- sitting on the front porch, firing up the grill, or taking a walk around the neighborhood. As the flowers are blooming and the trees are pollinating (ah-choo!) -- our community history keeps on growing on From the Rock Wall: Living Histories of Black Chapel Hill/Carrboro.

From the Rock Wall is a new, interactive site for all who live, worship, serve, play, and work in Northside, Tin Top, and Pine Knolls. Wondering how you can contribute? It's really easy: Go to www.fromtherockwall.org. Click on **Respond** at the top of the homepage. Choose one of the options on the form you'll find there. . . . and just follow the prompts.

You can type in that story about riding bikes around the neighborhood as a kid-- or record your favorite memory from a family cookout on your phone and click "upload" to post it to the site. You can also upload some pictures you took at a past Northside festival, or snap a photo of some old family pictures or newspaper clippings and upload those. You can even use the Respond page to let us know if your spring cleaning turned up a box of papers full of Northside history that you'd like help digitizing, if you know someone whose story should be told, or if you want to tell your own piece in an interview. Want some support? Just call the Jackson Center at 919-960-1670 or email us at rockwall@jacksoncenter.



COMMUNITY BOARD

Becoming Better than Before
A Free Webinar Series for the Mature Worker

Wednesdays & Fridays, April 28 & 30, and May 5 & 7
10:00-11:30 am
Via ZOOM Webinar Platform

Register for the program (330400-07) by calling the Seymour Center at 919-968-2070.
All registrants will receive Zoom ID and passcode via email.

Mike Komives
MBA, Employment Specialist at Orange County Department on Aging

Carl Nordgren
Partner at Being Better than Before

Don Downs
Creator and Founder of RV Business Coach

www.orangecountync.gov/Aging ORANGE COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

Happy 103rd Birthday Mr. Garland Foushee!!!

Mr. Garland will be celebrating his 103rd birthday on May 17th. He was born in Chatham County and moved to Chapel Hill where he graduated from Orange County Training School (OCTS) in 1938. He was married to his wife, Mrs. Osa ("Osie") for 71 years. Mr. Garland served in the Navy in World War II and became a barber. He also worked at UNC and at the US Forestry Department. Mr. Garland's brother, Rev. Warren Raymond Foushee, was Pastor of St. Joseph CME Church from 1935 to 1964. Mr. Garland was also chairman of the Stewards Board at St. Joseph for almost 50 years. He and Mrs. Osa taught their children to become successful in life; all attended college and pursued professional careers. Today, he lives in Pine Knolls with his daughter, Marlou. He and his wife's names are on the monument dedicated to OCTS and Lincoln High School graduates located on the grounds of the school district administrative office on Merritt Mill Rd.